

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 NRC-05 SOE-02 AID-05
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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7877
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 4287

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECON, ENRG, ID
SUBJECT: ENERGY INITIATIVES FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO
THE ASEAN AREA

REF: (A). STATE 082633, (B) STATE 081006, (C) JAKARTA 2156,
(D) JAKARTA 0667

1. EMBASSY JAKARTA IS PLEASED ABOUT POSSIBILITIES OF
UNDERTAKING NEW BILATERAL COOPERATION IN ENERGY FIELD WITH
GOI, AND WE BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT TO
RAISE THIS POSSIBILITY IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH GOI OFFICIALS.
WE UNDERSTAND AND AGREE WITH IDEA TO RAISE THESE PROPOSALS
IN AN ASEAN CONTEXT, BUT ALSO AGREE IT IS THE BILATERAL
PROGRAM THAT WILL HAVE GREATEST INTEREST TO GOI.

2. IN ADDITION TO SUBJECTS MENTIONED REFTTEL, INDONESIA IS
ACTIVE IN GEOTHERMAL WORK. PERTAMINA IS DEVELOPING SEVERAL
FIELDS, IN ONE CASE WITH ASSISTANCE OF GOVERNMENT OF NEW
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ZEALAND AND IN ANOTHER WITH POSSIBLE FUTURE ASSISTANCE OF
UNION OIL. FORMER MINISTER OF MINES SADLI OFTEN EXPRESSED
DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND POTENTIAL OF SOLAR ENERGY FOR
INDONESIA, PARTICULARLY DECENTRALIZED APPLICATIONS AT
VILLAGE LEVEL. WE ARE NOT YET FAMILIAR WITH MINISTER
SUBROTO'S VIEWS, BUT SOLAR IS A POSSIBILITY IF USG HAS
EXPERTISE RELEVANT TO INDONESIA ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND

NATURAL RESOURCE SITUATION -- RECOGNIZING TECHNOLOGY NOT FAR ADVANCED FOR VILLAGE APPLICATIONS AND THAT WE SHOULD NOT RAISE FALSE HOPES.

3. THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT INDONESIA IS CONSIDERED A PROMISING AREA FOR URANIUM EXPLORATION. UNDER INDONESIAN LAW, EXPLORATION FOR URANIUM IS CONDUCTED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS. FRANCE AND WEST GERMANY ARE ALREADY ENGAGED IN EXPLORATION EFFORTS HERE (THE FRENCH ESPECIALLY APPEAR TO HAVE SOME PROMISING INDICATIONS), AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE GOI WILL RAISE THE SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE USG-GOI COOPERATION IN URANIUM EXPLORATION. EXPLOITATION OF URANIUM IS ALSO TO BE CONDUCTED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, AND THIS MAKES U.S. PARTICIPATION DIFFICULT. HOWEVER, IF THE INDONESIANS RAISE THE QUESTION, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO BE RESPONSIVE

RATHER THAN SEE ALL COOPERATIVE EFFORTS IN URANIUM EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION RESERVED FOR THIRD COUNTRIES.

4. WE APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S REVIEW OF LEGISLATION ENABLING AID AND DOE TO UNDERTAKE ENERGY ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, AID ALREADY HAS SOME SMALL ENERGY RESEARCH PROJECTS HERE; ONE IS APPLIED RESEARCH IN PYROLYTIC CONVERSION-- VILLAGE
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LEVEL PRODUCTION OF CHAR, OIL AND GAS FROM AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY WASTES; OBLIGATED AT \$250,000 AS A TWO-YEAR R&D PROJECT; AND THE OTHER A LESS-DEFINED FIVE YEAR RESEARCH PROJECT TO SEEK WAYS TO PROMOTE RURAL ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY IN GENERAL, AT ABOUT \$200,000 PER YEAR. EMBASSY PREVIOUSLY HAS THOROUGHLY EXPLORED DOE PROPOSAL WITH GOI; OUR DISCUSSIONS CONFIRM STRONG GOI INTEREST IN BILATERAL COOPERATION IN MANPOWER TRAINING AND EDUCATION AS WELL AS IN ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING ENERGY DATA BASE AND ORIGINAL ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES. AID JAKARTA IS IN PROCESS OF PROPOSING EDUCATION TRAINING PROGRAM IN ENERGY FIELD FOR FY 80 WHICH MIGHT BE ACCELERATED. WITH REGARD TO DEVELOPING ENERGY DATA BASE AND PERFORMING ORIGINAL ECONOMIC STUDIES, WE ARE UNCERTAIN AS TO POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES OR IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES. WE ARE ALSO UNCLEAR AS TO WHETHER EXISTING LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY COVERS OTHER IDEAS FOR FURTHER COOPERATION MENTIONED IN REFTEL A, I.E. COAL TECHNOLOGY, AND WOULD WELCOME DEPARTMENT'S COMMENT ON THIS.
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